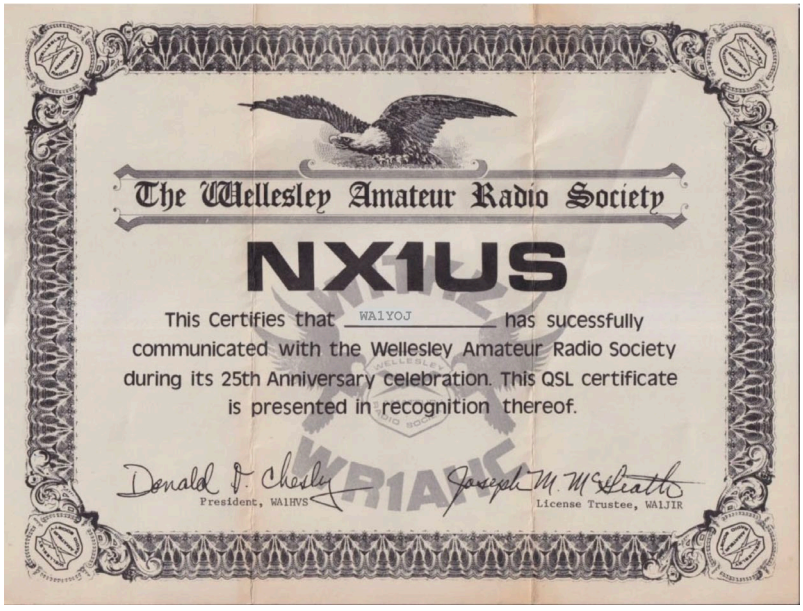
The WARS 25th Anniversary - Nov 18, 1976

Intro By Scott Nacey, KK6IK

For our 25th anniversary in 1976, WARS held a special open house at W1TKZ's new station in the Wellesley Intermediate Building. The open house was attended by amateurs from other clubs, Wellesley hams and citizens, journalists and many town officials. The club also sponsored a special event QSO party the callsign NX1US. Participants who contacted NX1US received an event certificate - pictured below.


The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society
NX1US
This Certifies that WA1YOJ has sucessfully communicated with the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society during its 25th Anniversary celebration. This QSL certificate is presented in recognition thereof.
President, WA1HVS
License Trustee, WA1JIR

The classic 25th Anniversary event commemoration certificate

The celebration showcased the club's history and its close association with Wellesley Civil Defense, highlighting its important community service role as a Wellesley "Town Resource". Other highlights included examples of our emergency communications for Hurricane Belle in 1976 and our licensing classes. Photos from the event included displays of the brand-new WARS Communications Center in the Intermediate Building, as well as honorary membership awards to long-serving members. By then, W1TKZ was equipped with a custom-built radio console on the second floor of the Wellesley Intermediate Building and included a Collins KWM-2A with Amplifier and a tri-band beam that was located inside the building's attic.

In honor of the WARS 75th Anniversary, I want to offer Walt Lenk K1YTY's original 25th anniversary article that was published in both *The Wellesley Townsman* and the *Spark Gap* in November 1976 as an appropriate tribute.

So… Please enjoy this bit of history.

Amateur Radio Society Celebrates 25th Year

By Walt Lenk, K1YTY – November 1976 as published in *The Wellesley Townsman*
source: *The Wellesley Townsman*, November 25, 1976

Note: All items marked with [] are corrections to the original *Townsman* article. All Endnotes are added by KK6IK, they were not part of the original text.

[The] Wellesley Amateur Radio Society recently held an open house in its headquarters at the Intermediate Building, to celebrate 25 years of service to the town. The celebration featured exhibits, movies, slide shows and refreshments. Attending the celebration were amateurs from other, clubs, Wellesley amateurs and citizens and town officials.

Shortly after World War II a group of Wellesley amateurs got together to form an informal association of radio amateurs within the town.

During the War, all amateur radio operations were forbidden. In 1951, the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society was formed. At that time, the Society was affiliated with the American Radio Relay League, official organ of the International [R]adio [U]nion. Some of the initial organizers of the Society still living in Wellesley include Albert H. Graf. Donald W. Scully, Horace Schermerhorn, Jr., and Theodore Hale[1].

From the beginning, the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society developed a close association with Wellesley Civil Defense, which had been in existence since World War II. [The] role of the Society was to provide radio operators for the Wellesley Civil Defense system; the CD furnished the equipment. In its first year, a number of CD radio stations were set up within the [t]own. By 1968, the number of town amateurs involved in civil defense grew from 9 to 17.

[The] Wellesley Civil Defense radio stations have been located in the Wellesley Police and Fire Departments, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Public Works Department , American Red Cross, Wellesley Town Hall , Wellesley Hills Branch Library and the Superintendent of Schools office. [CD] Headquarters is now located in the Wellesley Hills Fire Station, with William E Donahue, Jr. as Civil Defense Director.

Each member affiliated with Wellesley CD mans a radio in his home, and many can operate from their own cars, if needed. Particularly outstanding has been the operation of weekly Sunday morning Civil Defense nets for the past 25 years. From time to time, the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society has organized simulated emergency situations within the Town, an event sponsored by the American Radio Relay League

For 24 years, the Wellesley [Amateur Radio] Society was located at the [a]lternate CD [h]eadquarters in the basement of the Wellesley Hills Branch Library, where the Society maintained an emergency gasoline generator. All the lights of the Hills Branch Library were fully lit during the great power blackout in December, 1965, due to faithful maintenance.

Headquarters was moved to the Intermediate Building[2] this year where the Society is currently developing a Civil Defense Communications Center featuring modern and sophisticated modes of radio communication. The new center will also be equipped with emergency gasoline generator power.

Some Wellesley Amateur Radio Society members involved with Civil Defense work and Society activities during recent years are: Roger P. Smith, John and George Allen, Christopher Wiles, Donald Chesley, William Downing, Ludwig Fasolino , Walter E. Lenk. Marshall H. Cannell, John B. Porter, David Goldman , Charles Chabot , Nathan A. Hallenstein , Dr. William Emerson, Albert H. Graf, Roy E. Snow and Larry CH. Jones.

Throughout its existence, Wellesley Amateur Radio Society has advanced the interests of amateur radio through monthly get togethers with round table discussions and guest speakers. From the beginning, the Society recognized the necessity of providing those wishing to enter the amateur radio fraternity with the necessary technical information to pass the FCC [e]xams.

For many years it has conducted classes twice a year in code practice and electronic theory leading to the Novice class FCC license. The Society has also organized Novice nets for those who passed, so that they might improve their techniques of radio' operation. Class participants ages range from age eight to 72. On occasion, the Society has conducted classes leading to the higher class General FCC license.

Over the years, the Society has taken part in many events sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, including the annual "Field Day " contest held every June. This exercise is a nationwide contest using only battery or generator power for radio communications. Until this year the Society set up equipment behind the Town Hall. This year, the Society moved its usual location from behind the Town Hall to Long Island in Boston Harbor for better radio reception. The Society will always appreciate the support given by the late CD director, George P. deCoen, and the present CD director, William E. Donahue. Jr., and other town officials for the "Field Day", a true 26-hour "camping out" experience. Over 600 contacts with other amateurs in the United States and Canada were made this year.

For the past nine years, the Radio Society has operated a series of mobile radio stations along the Veteran's Day parade route in case of an emergency and to ensure the smooth movement of the parade.

The Society has also provided communications for the Recreation Department's 9.6 mile annual road race since 1971. It has also provided communications for several private organizations during their special events.

Under the leadership of Donald Chesley, Christopher Wiles, James Hatherley, Joseph McGrath, William Downing and many others, for the past three years, the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society has become one of the most active radio clubs in the Boston area. Membership now totals 71, and meetings are twice a month. It now conducts two Novice classes with a total membership of 60.

"Spark Gap." the society's newsletter, is published monthly. In order to raise more money to finance the expanding organization , the Society has held amateur radio auctions in the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church for the past two years.

The Society took an important step to improve radio communication in the immediate area this year. It has joined with a Newton club[3] to maintain , operate and finance a highly modern and sophisticated high frequency repeater radio system in Newton[4].

This repeater system can provide excellent radio communications over a 25-mile area, and could be used in case of a local emergency.

Particularly outstanding has been the Society's Christmas "Message Fair" held in the main foyer of the Natick Mall in December, 1974 and 1975.

Over 650 free messages were sent from the Natick Mall to many locations in the United States and other parts of the [w]orld last year. It is expected the Wellesley amateurs may handle well over a 1,000 messages at this year's three-day evening Mall operation.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP is awarded to Roger Smith W1EOA, right, by the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society for his long-time service to the Society and community. Making the award is Tim Hatherley, WA1TBY. Photos by Christopher Wiles

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1 Remember Hales TV?

2 Remember the Phillips School and now, condo's?

[3] The Newton Club is W1HEB

[4] This is NOT the current Wellesley/Newton repeater on 147.63/.03. It is the Newton 147.96/.36 repeater!